

Summary of Kick-Off Meeting for ARB WD/WE Activity Contracts with STI

Lyle Chinkin, Dana Coe, and Tami Funk of Sonoma Technology, Inc. attended the May 21 Kick-Off meeting for their upcoming WD/WE activity contracts with the ARB. The STI staff presented a synopsis of their activity efforts for NREL last summer and their project plans for the micro-scale and macro-scale activity contracts with ARB. Doug Lawson of NREL also attended and shared his perspective on the preliminary results from last year and how they might be used to refine the design of the ARB micro-scale project.

The group spent most of the time going over findings from last summer's NREL contract and how those results might shape the focus of ARB's micro-scale project. There was discussion about getting the contracts executed in a timely manner to collect activity data this summer. STI noted that the preparation time needed for the micro-scale activity project is only about 2 weeks because it is similar to what was done for NREL last year. The "spin-up" time for the macro-scale activity project is at least 6, maybe 8, weeks which means the data might not be collected during the summer (July/August) if the contract is not signed by the end of June. With concerns about the timing of the contract, potential anomalous impacts of rolling blackouts this summer on the activity data, and NREL possibly sponsoring an AQ study (probably with PM focus in the fall of 2002), the consensus was to delay the macro-scale project until the summer of 2002 if the contract were not signed by the end of June.

Because STI did the original work with NREL, the group agreed that their experiences and preliminary findings from that study could enable the micro-scale project to still move ahead this summer. There was less concern about the potential impact of blackouts because the primary focus of the micro-scale project is identifying sources and activity around ambient monitoring sites and less focus on extrapolating the activity results for supporting development of the emissions inventory. The micro-scale study will focus on 2-km areas around five ambient air quality monitoring sites. The sites selected for this project were Azusa, Burbank, Lynwood, N. Long Beach, and Riverside-Rubidoux. The Azusa site is a repeat of an NREL site last summer and will provide some info on "seasonal" variations in activity (late July/early August versus early October when school, etc. in session). Because traffic patterns during the NREL study were very consistent, the option we are likely to follow at a couple of the sites (not all) is to collect traffic data on a couple sets of surface streets for each monitoring site (2 WE days and 2 WDs at each surface street pair) rather than 4 WE days and the intervening WDs at only one surface street pair as originally planned. This info will provide insight into some of the spatial variability in traffic around the monitoring site (i.e., better idea of the representativeness of the traffic locations actually selected).